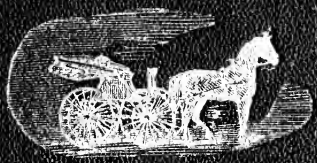
BREEDING.

TRAINING.

EVERY HORSE OWNER'S

TRAINING MANUAL



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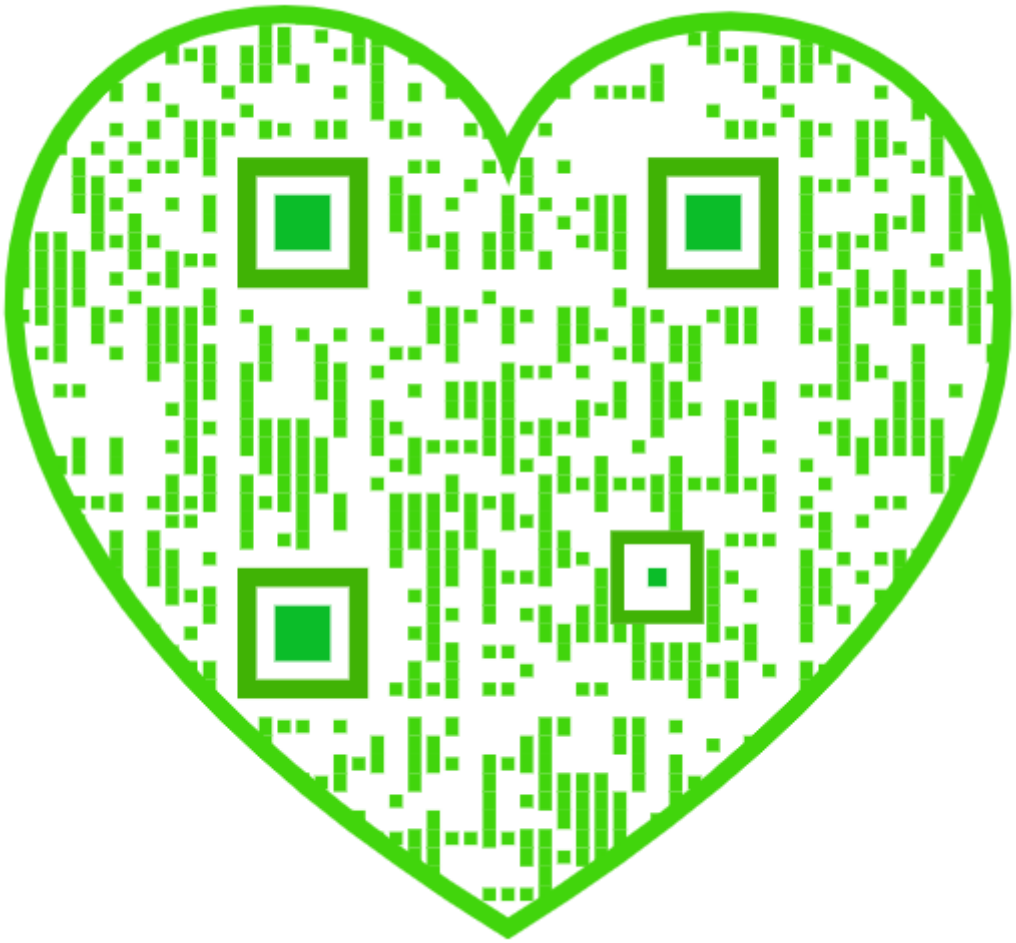

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EVERY HORSE OWNERS'

TRAINING MANUAL

AND

HORSEMAN'S GUIDE.

CONTAINING

FULL AND COMPLETE INSTRUCTIONS IN BREEDING, BREAKING, TRAINING, AND EDUCATING THE TROTTING HORSE, BOTH IN THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC STATES.

BY

1871

C. GRANVILLE JOHNSTON.

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA:
PUBLISHED BY C. GRANVILLE JOHNSTON & COMPANY,
OFFICE NO. 37 SUTTER STREET.
1871.

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Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1871.

BY JOHNSTON & COATES,

In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

PRINTED BY

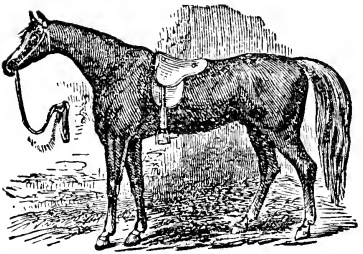
Jos. Winterburn & Company,

417 Clay Street,

San Francisco, Cal.

PREFACE.

I believe that it may be asserted, without fear of contradiction, that no book has yet been published in the English or any other language, which even professes to give a complete description of breeding, breaking, training and educating the Trotting Horse in a form and style suited to the country gentlemen of the nineteenth century. It is true that some of these departments are described, but very imperfectly, in separate works; but they are generally written in technical language, suited rather for the professional student than for the use and comprehension of the ordinary reader. For these reasons the author of this work has thought that a book combining the above subjects, and confined strictly to those subjects, treated in a practical manner, and in a style popularly intelligible, would supply a deficiency which has long been complained of by all who are interested in the proper production and management of the Trotting Horse. And in order to bring this work within the reach of every one who reads, it is published in pamphlet form, divested of all superfluous matter; therefore it will be found to contain only what is absolutely necessary for the elucidation of each subject.



TRAINING MANUAL

AND

HORSEMAN'S GUIDE

I now offer this book to the public, explaining all the nice practice there is in managing horse-flesh, and showing all men how to break, train and educate their own horses and colts to trot; also showing stock-raising men how to breed their mares, what cross they ought to select to breed them to, that they may command a good price in the horse market. The class of horses that command a larger price than any other in the United States is the trotting horse.

Men are frequently heard to inquire how it is that they have so many fast trotters bred in the East, while so few are bred upon the Pacific Coast. In answer to this inquiry I will state to the reader that in the East the greatest pains are taken in selecting the sire and dam. They don't look at a few dollars in the price of breeding their mares. It is very true they don't all get Dexters, or Lady Thorns, or Goldsmith Maids, but they are breeding into the same family that produced those flyers.

Dexter, the king of trotters, sold for thirty-five thousand dollars. He was sired by Hambletonian, the producer of more high-priced horses than any other trotting sire in the United States. This fact proves conclusively to our horse-raising men—especially in California and on the Pacific Coast—the necessity of choosing a stallion that has trotting blood in him. They must, also, look back and trace up his pedigree, that they may be sure

they are not breeding to cold-blooded mongrels. They must, also, look to the form of the horse that they intend to breed to; he must be well-necked, deep-chested, and short-jointed for endurance; for speed, he must have a nice, clean, bony head, a good, nice, large nostril, wide between the eyes, good prominent eyes, wide between the joles, clean and nice around the throatlatch, a large windpipe, a nice rangy neck with plenty of depth, a good, nice, slanting shoulder, short back, with good strong loins, plenty of length from the point of the hip to the crouper, heavy through the stifles, with a good, wide, flat hock, with plenty of length from the point of the hip to the point of the hock, short between the hock and pastern, a good, flat, clean leg; must stand straight on his pasterns, with his hind legs well set under him. The breeder must see that he has plenty of depth through his chest, with a good, large barrel, which denotes a strong constitution, and good staying qualities. Horse-raisers, by observing the above rules in making their selections, will obviate the taking of desperate chances in breeding their mares to cold-blooded stallions.

Horse-raisers (much too often for the sake of economy) allow their mares to be bred to cold-blooded stallions that are only fit for the commonest kind of labor. Now see how wide of the mark they get, upon the score of economy. For example: a colt sired by a cold-blooded brute will grow up, and at best will never command in the horse market more than two hundred dollars, and very much oftener will price at a sum vastly less; while, on the other hand, if the same mares were bred to some such horse as has been prefaced and so minutely described above, their colts, when three years old, with proper training and a good nice gait, would be worth *one thousand* dollars each, which would justify the breeder in bitting, breaking, and training his colts to trot. A colt that can trot in three minutes is to-day worth *one thousand dollars* or more, and always a good demand and ready sale for him. Colts that can trot in three minutes and one-half are worth *five hundred dollars*, which facts above mentioned must conclusively convince the breeder and

raiser of colts that, upon the score of economy, as well as that of pecuniary advantage, breeding, raising, and training trotting stock is most decidedly to be preferred over that of any other class of horses.

METHOD OF BITTING, BREAKING AND TEACHING THE COLT OR HORSE TO TROT FAST.

I will now explain to the reader the method of bitting, breaking and teaching his colt or horse to trot fast. First of all be sure and use your colt very gentle, when a year old halter break it, teach it how to lead by the halter. After you have taught it to lead kind, run along with it a short distance at first, if the colt should break from its trot check it and teach it that you want it to trot and not to lope. Pursue this course for a couple of months, until it knows what you want it to do. Play with your colt one hour each day, but be sure you don't heat it up, and never get out of temper, and above all be sure and never whip it. Continue to handle your colt as I have just described and it will soon find out that it will not get hurt, which course will rapidly inspire confidence in itself, and you will have no trouble in breaking it to harness. Keep using the halter on it occasionally, until two and a half years old, and occasionally get on your horse and lead it along by the halter, and let it step along two or three hundred yards at a time, never allowing it to break from its trot if you can help it; if it should, check it as quickly as possible, and it will soon learn that you want it to trot and not to gallop.

The colt, on reaching the age of two and a half years—put a bitting harness on it, and be sure you don't check its head any higher at first, than its natural style of carrying it while in motion. Keep the bitting rig on it twenty minutes the first day; the next day, twenty-five minutes, and take it up on the check line two holes; third day, give it half an hour in the bitting rig, with its head two holes higher, so that it will bear on the bit. Work it along this way one week, leading it along

by the side of the horse you ride, jog along a nice natural gait and you will soon get your colt way-wise. Give it four or five miles a day the next week, jogging along a little faster, taking care to notice your colt that it don't break from its trot, and in the event it should, check it as quickly as possible, and it will soon learn that you want it to trot and not to run. Two weeks in succession is all it needs in the bitting rig, by this time its mouth becomes soft so that you can rein it. At this juncture put a breast-plate harness on it, checking it so that it will bear a very little on the check, get it accustomed to the harness. pat it on the neck, walk all around it, handle it all over, and start off gently with it, let it walk a mile or two, then jog along a slow and natural gait a couple of miles, which will be sufficient for the first day's exercise in harness; always have it led beside your saddle horse, increasing your speed gradually, when you see it is feeling like trotting, let it step along two or three hundred yards at a time, being sure to select a good nice piece of road upon which to move. If on the track, let it jog two miles, and let it step along on the last quarter of the third mile; let it work up to its gait gradually, until within three hundred yards of the stand, then increase its speed by clucking to it occasionally, if it should appear rather anxious, as a great many horses and colts are when learning to trot fast, call it back by using the word whoa ! If it should break from its trot while trotting up to its speed, shake the bit in its mouth and at the same time use the words " take care." Pusue this course and it will very soon learn its lessons, and easily become educated in its trotting gait. Two weeks with the harness on it, it will get accustomed to leather slapping about it, so it will know what that means. When preparing the colt for this exercise it should be shod forward only, not needing any shoes on its hind feet for the first month, or until you hitch it to a sulky for steady driving. Be sure and notice what kind of knee action your colt has, as you must be the judge of shoeing your own horse or colt. If the colt bends a good knee, it wants a nice smart shoe on; if it does not, and throws out its forward legs without

much knee action, you must have a heavier shoe on forward than behind in order to make it fold a better knee. You must also be a judge of the track you intend to work on, as a great many of our tracks, especially in California, become very hard in the summer season if not harrowed up and kept in order.

If the reader follows these directions he will be sure to pursue the right course to make a trotter of the young beginner, and the owner will find that he will be well rewarded for his trouble in pursuing this course, as his colt will be way-wise when he wants to hitch it up to a sulky. The man who handles the colt must bear in mind that it is a very wise plan before hitching his colt single that it is very necessary he should get a steady well-broke horse and hitch the colt up with him, so that the colt will get accustomed to the rattling of the wagon. Once or twice is sufficient to hitch the colt up in that way. When hitching your colt up with the horse be sure and hitch the horse up short, so that the colt won't have to pull any. After driving your colt with the horse as above described, take it out and hitch it up to your sulky, and jog it slow a couple of miles, then return to your stable and unhitch it, have some one hold the colt while unhitching, as no chances should be taken with the colt until it has every confidence in itself. Drive your colt every day four or five miles for a couple of weeks, and it will soon have its lessons learned. When preparing your colt to trot fast, or for any engagement, whatsoever it may be, if working it on a race track, jog your colt three miles the reverse way of the track, then turn your colt and jog along one mile the right way of the track, the next mile let your colt step along lively two or three hundred yards when into straight work, go slow around the turns and the distance that I have mentioned, let it step on through both stretches. This will be a plenty of track work for it the first week. After giving it the first lessons, such as I have mentioned, the next day take your colt on the road to prevent its getting tired of the track.

By following these instructions one month, you will find a great improvement in your colt. By using it this way, it will not get sore or dull, but will always feel cheerful and ready to show you speed whenever you call upon it. The next month jog your colt the reverse way of the track until you get it emptied out and ready to move it; then turn it and go the right way of the track, and let it step along about three-quarter speed for one mile; then go to the stable with it, and, if sweating, throw a blanket and hood on it; sponge its mouth out and give it a couple of swallows of water; when you get it unhitched from your sulky, walk it around about two minutes, then take it in its stall, get your harness off and scrape the sweat off of it; then rub the water out of its hair and throw a light blanket and hood on it, and walk it five or seven minutes, and at the same time sponge its mouth out, and after sponging it, let it wet its mouth in the bucket; then take it in and rub it about ten minutes with dry cloths; then cover it up with some lighter clothing and take it out and walk it ten minutes, and before going to the stable with it, sponge its mouth out, as this will be a great help to cool it out; then rub it dry, before taking it out again. Then, when you have got your colt perfectly dry, so that it will be fit to curry, take your curry-comb and curry it, neck and body and as low as its knees and hocks; very often, as currying too hard gets a horse sore; never curry the knees or below the hocks; when you get it curried, take a clean rubbing cloth and rub it all over with it; then take your brush and comb and brush it off; then take a clean cloth and smooth its coat with it; then put on its sheet, and after going through this process, the horse will be cool enough to water off. Then take a bucket and get it full of clean water; set it on the outside of your walking-ring and administer it to your horse in six parts. Give your horse about one-sixth of it at first; then walk it three or four times around the walking-ring and give about the same, and so on until watered. Then take your horse where you throw out your litter and let it stale there, as it prevents the horse from wetting its litter, and

keeps its stall so much purer and cleaner. The horse will soon become so accustomed to it that the groom will find no trouble in leading it to stale three times a day.

Where the climate, at all seasons of the year, like that in many parts of the State of California, is mild, your horse must not be clothed so warm as in parts of the country where the seasons change from hot to cold or *vice versa*. A person to train horses must clothe according to the weather; he must also remember no two horses train alike; therefore, he should study his horse's disposition, and if nervous, must treat it kindly; never scold at it or strike it. If it is vicious and cannot be coaxed, you must let it know that it must be conquered and that man is its master; but never whip it, until you are well satisfied it both needs and deserves it, and only then at the moment it does wrong. A few such lessons as these, the horse will soon find out what you punish it for, and will very soon become as docile, obedient and affectionate as a well-tutored child.

Many people training horses have their horses' legs washed every day with castile soap and water. This practice is a bad one, and I will explain to the reader wherein it meets with my disapproval. Washing your horses' legs with castile soap and water every day and then rubbing them dry, the consequence is the skin becomes finer, and it loses that moisture that nature has provided; it being removed every day by the use of the soap and water, which operation very materially aids and hastens the production of cracked heels. This result I have tested to my satisfaction. I once trained a horse that was very speedy. His legs were washed every day, and when I would call upon him to extend himself, his heels would crack wide open. So I quit washing his legs every day, and in lieu thereof, had them well brushed and rubbed down with a clean rubbing cloth, and after a few days I had no further trouble with cracked heels. Pursue this course and, experience will at once lead the reader to the same conviction already produced upon the mind of the author as the only true and successful method of the cure and prevention of cracked heels.

After training your horse each day, the last thing you should do before you put it into its stall is to clean well with a foot-pick the bottom of its feet, and examine well that it has not picked up a nail or other sharp substance, or received any bruise, also it is a very good plan, after using your horse, to wash and cleanse the bottom of its feet with water. Should your horse at any time while driving it become suddenly lame stop it and examine its feet, which trouble and precaution will save owners many dollars, as well as the loss of the usefulness of many good horses.

PREPARATION OF THE HORSE FOR TRAINING.

When first taking the animal in hand, preparatory for training, if grass fed, be kind to it; if high in flesh, be sure and not reduce it too quick. When first you get it, prepare the following bran-mash and feed it as directed below.

BRAN-MASH.

Four quarts bran, two quarts oats, one-half teaspoonful of saltpetre, one-half tablespoonful of salt.

Directions for mixing and using the bran-mash are as follows: Put your bran in a bucket. Next your oats. Stir them up while dry. Next take the saltpetre and salt and place them in the centre of the mash, first making a little hollow with your hand as a receptacle for the water. Next, pour boiling hot water on it until you get your mash well wet, then stir it up and cover it with a blanket and let it remain three hours. By this time your mash will be well cooked, and if too warm to feed take it to your feed trough, pour your mash into it and stir it until cool enough to feed the horse. This preparation (with the exception of the saltpetre), given three times a week, will cool him out and keep his bowels right. The saltpetre should be given in the mash but once a month. Jog your horse slow for a couple of weeks, feeding eight quarts of oats per day—two quarts in the morning, and a few swallows of water before exercise, three quarts at 12

o'clock and three quarts at 6 o'clock, P. M.—which will be sufficient feed for the first two weeks. As its work must be slow, give it about six pounds of hay to a feed. After this, the trainer must be the better judge, as some horses want more work than others. If your horse is high tempered, long and slow work will soon steady it, and near the close of its work increase its speed; for a high tempered or high spirited horse twelve miles per day is reasonable work; of the twelve miles, you should jog it along about eight, and increase its speed the last four miles. If your horse is a puller, do not pull it, but, keeping a firm and steady hold, call it back to you by using the word "whoa." The horse, when used in this way, will soon find out what you mean by this treatment, and its anxiety to pull will cease at the word.

ON DRIVING—WHAT JUDGMENT TO USE, Etc.

As all horses do not drive alike, persons undertaking the driving of them must first study his horse's disposition, and if dull, he must take a nice, steady hold of his lines, check his horse not much higher than when in natural motion, touch it occasionally with his whip and cheer it up. As many a horse does not want to stay on its feet when another comes up to brush with it, the driver must keep a nice, steady hold of his lines and call his horse back until it gets confidence in itself. If driving in a race, the driver must always keep his eye on his horse's head—as all horses are very apt to show some symptoms of breaking, before getting off their feet, either by throwing up their heads, overstriding themselves, or by making a mis-step; and very often it happens through the neglect of the driver, by being over-anxious and trying to force his horse to more speed than it naturally has, or by letting go his pull or hold upon it too sudden. When a horse breaks from its trot, let it make a few jumps before you undertake to catch it, then all of a sudden take it well in hand, pull it a little to the right, then suddenly to the left, then square it; to square it, you take a good steady hold of it and force it on to the bit, as this will change its movement,

and it will go to trotting again. With a few such lessons, you will soon have a good breaker.

A man who drives trotters must never be too anxious to over-work or over-speed. When his horse is trotting as fast as it can, keep it there, and do not try to give it too much speed at one time. Many men in the trotting horse business give their young horses too much track-work, so that they become track-sick and leg-wearied. Never try to drive your horse when tired. During the author's experience in training and driving the trotting horse, men have very often been noticed to go on the track with young horses; working them at first at a moderate gait, the animals would, while fresh, work well; along the last of their work, they would break and the driver getting out of patience, together with natural stupidity and laziness, will go off the track and declare his horse cannot trot a bit, thus destroying the chances of a really valuable and excellent colt, without the slightest cause; while the reason of its breaking was caused by the driver allowing it to get completely pumped out of wind or breath.

Young horses cannot stand as much driving as horses eight and ten years old, for the simple reason that their joints are soft and their muscles not set—so that when handled, the person handling them should remember that they do not need as much work as an aged horse.

A man to become a good driver must drive with a steady line and always study his horse's disposition; and, if his horse should break from its trot, not to be too harsh with it, but give it a chance to catch by letting it run twenty or thirty yards, then pull it suddenly to the right, then suddenly to the left, at the same time call it back, by using the word whoa! being sure you have it well in hand, so that you can square it. By a strict observance of these rules, the horse will soon learn what you want of it, and will become so experienced in its lessons that you will have no further trouble in catcing it from a break. Once in a while a break rests a horse; for instance, in trotting two or three miles

and repeat, where your horse is closely matched, if you have a handy breaker, you have a great advantage; therefore, when men are training their horses, that is the time for them to teach them to break and catch.

METHOD TO IMPROVE THE HORSE IN SPEED.

When you take your horses to the track to train for the first time, you must start in easy with them. If taken up from grass, you must walk them mornings and evenings, for three days, seven miles in the morning and five miles in the evening. Be sure and careful to feed as follows, or as professional trainers term it: "Mash your horse out," with bran-mashes. Three quarts of bran, one quart of oats, mix well while dry, then pour boiling hot water on your mash until well wet, then cover your mash with a blanket and keep covered for three hours, by this time your mash becomes well cooked, which feed to your horse when cool. Give this mash three times a day for the first three days with some hay. This will prepare your horse so that you can commence to grain him on the fourth day, with two quarts of oats in the morning before going out with him to exercise, three quarts at twelve o'clock, noon, and again three quarts at six o'clock, P. M. That will be sufficient grain for him for the first week, as his work must be slow. After the first week, increase his speed gradually as you work him. Twelve miles will be about the average work for a horse each day while ordering him, that is: eight miles every morning to harness, to be jogged along five miles, until emptied, then increase his speed the other three; and four miles' walk in the evening, taking him out for his walk punctually at four o'clock, P. M. One month of such work seasons your horse so that you can, from thence, increase his speed and work. A horse that will eat twelve quarts of oats per day is considered a hearty feeder, and will stand fifteen miles exercise per day, that is: ten miles in the morning in harness, and five miles for his evening walk. Out of the morning's work, jog seven miles, the other three miles let your horse go up to about three-quarter speed. Jog your horse twice on the road, so that he don't

get track-sick, as a horse likes to be changed occasionally from the track to the road.

HOW TO COOL THE HORSE OUT WHILE TRAINING AFTER HIS WORK IS DONE.

After its work, keep your horse out of the wind as much as possible; when you bring it to its stable, after its work, if very warm and sweating freely, throw a large blanket on it immediately, and at once sponge out its mouth with some nice clean water, and let the water run over its nostrils. As soon as you get the foam out of its mouth give it two or three swallows of water, then you take its harness off and scrape off the sweat. After you have all the sweat scraped off, blanket it up snug, and clothe a little heavier by putting on an extra blanket over your main sweating blanket and hood, pin your blankets well up in front and put on two circingles, one over your horse's chest and one across its loins, and pin your blanket well behind. Then give your horse two or three swallows of water and walk it around for five minutes, then bring it in to where you intend to scrape it, take off its top blanket and hood, one getting on each side, roll your blanket back about half-way on your horse and scrape the sweat off clean, then roll your blanket up on its neck and shoulders and scrape its hind parts, then roll back your blanket to its place on the horse. After you get the sweat scraped off, take some clean rubbing cloths and commencing at its head, rub it all over, and so continue until you have dried off all the external moisture; then put on a lighter blanket, called a cooling blanket, and a light hood, and walk your horse ten minutes; then bring it to your stable and take some dry cloths and rub it perfectly dry, then when ready to curry, curry it light so that its hide won't get sore; as soon as curried, take your curry-comb and brush and brush it all over, and then smooth its hair down with your rubbing cloth, brush its main and tail out, pick out the bottom of its feet and wash them well and clean; then go to work and brush its legs down with the brush until you get all the dust out of them; then

take a damp sponge and sponge its legs down until you damp them; then take your rubbing cloth and rub each leg ten minutes at a time, rub on the flat of the leg, and rub light so as to prevent soreness—as rubbing too hard causes soreness of the bone; pursue this course and you will always have your horse in good condition.

HOW TO MANAGE THE HORSE AT HOME, AND PREPARE IT FOR MARKET.

Horse-raising men and others who have no time or opportunity to take or send their horses to a public race-track, by observing carefully the following instructions will save both the expense and necessity. A great many of our farmers and horse-raisers can ill afford either the time or expense of paying from fifty to as high as one hundred and fifty dollars per month to have their horse trained, or to ascertain whether he is worth training or not. This will explain to them how they can manage their horses at home, and how to make them command a price, when they offer them for sale in market, or wheresoever the purchaser may make an offer for them, so as to prevent the seller from being taken in in the price of his animals. Horses of the age of three years, with good shape and size, and a good, square, open gait, that can trot in three minutes and thirty seconds, if a mare or gelding, is worth five hundred dollars, as there is a good showing to improve the speed of such horses. A horse of the same age, that can trot in three minutes, is worth one thousand dollars, as the chances are greatly in favor, with nice, careful handling, of it soon dropping down to two minutes and fifty seconds. A young horse that can trot in two minutes and fifty seconds is well worth fifteen hundred dollars. If a stallion, and is well bred, of good size, and has a good open gait, he is worth two thousand five hundred dollars. What is deemed of good size, is fifteen and one-half hands high, with plenty of bone and muscle, and weighs all the way from nine hundred to one thousand pounds. In speaking of muscle, be careful to observe that it is a good, nice, long muscle that tapers well into the knees and hocks. Trotters do not want to

be muscled like quarter-horses. Never in my experience have I seen any of the latter kind but would tire out in trotting any distance. If you have a young green horse that can trot in two minutes and forty-five seconds, he is worth two thousand dollars and upwards; if he can trot in any time below two minutes and forty seconds, he is worth three thousand dollars and upwards—with at all times and all seasons a plentiful demand for them at those prices.

The course to pursue to get your horses ready for market is as follows: When the colt is three years old, put its bitting harness on; don't check its head any higher than its natural way while in motion; be sure and treat it kindly, as by doing so, it will soon find out it won't get hurt, and from thence you will have no trouble with it. Give it about twenty-five minutes in the bitting harness the first day and about thirty minutes the second day—checking it up two holes higher than the first day, and so on, from day to day, until you get your colt's head elevated so that it can travel without lugging on the check, or having its head too high; as checking the young horse too high, when teaching it to trot fast, impedes its speed and prevents its extending itself when in motion. Two weeks in the bitting harness is sufficient, as by that time its mouth becomes soft, so that when you put your harness on it, you can rein it immediately. After you get through with the bitting harness, put on a breast-plate harness; lead it around with it on at first; then drive it around in it for about an hour, in order that it may get used to the slapping of the harness about its body. Occasionally stop it, and while standing, walk all around it; pat it on the neck and head, so that it won't be afraid of anything, and after a couple of days of this kind of treatment, it will find out that it is not going to get hurt, and you will have no further trouble with it. Now get a kind, gentle and well broke horse and hitch your colt beside him; drive it three or four times double, in order that it may get accustomed to the rattling of the wagon, and it will soon become way-wise. Be sure to

hitch the horse you drive with your colt short enough so that the horse will do all the pulling, as you do not want the colt to do any pulling when taking his first lessons. Then take your colt, as soon as you unhitch it from the wagon, and hitch it up to your sulky, and drive it four or five miles. Let it walk along at first, until it learns what you want it to do. Be sure and select as level a piece of road as you can get, when you first begin to walk it.

HOW TO CONSTRUCT YOUR RACE-TRACK—MILE OR HALF-MILE.

It is very easy for the farmer or horse-raiser to lay out, upon his own or his neighbor's land, a mile or half-mile track, such as the land in his immediate vicinity is best adapted to. If you lay out a mile track, have quarter-stretches of four hundred and forty yards to each stretch; this will give you two straight stretches—the back—stretch and the home-stretch, and four hundred and forty yards on the turns, which will give you a complete mile of seventeen hundred and sixty yards. If circumstances do not favor a mile track, then lay out a half-mile track in proportion to the mile track, and you have it complete.

By adopting this method you can always train your colt or horse to trot, and learn to your own satisfaction, right at home, very nearly if not quite, how fast your horses are, and thus save the trouble, annoyance, and expense of the public race track. This course will also save you the trouble or necessity of hiring a horse sharp to drive your horse on a public track to test his speed, and save the chances of being deceived by such driver, whose only motive would be to get the training of the horse, whether speedy or not. Therefore, by all means, lay out a track for yourselves, and thus avoid every conceivable difficulty that is encountered upon public tracks.

The instructions here given are practically correct, as you will observe all the theoretical observations are carefully excluded, and if followed, one man can drive five

or six every day, and that is as many horses as one man ought to try to improve in one season. If you are working three year old colts, six to seven miles track work is enough each morning—the first four miles slow, the last two or three miles let them step along, but not fast enough to go to a break. This kind of work for the first month will be about right, as by that time they become seasoned.

As to feeding, you will follow the general as well as particular instructions heretofore given. Feed according to their constitution. Oats is the best grain feed; they are not so heating, and are more strengthening than barley. Again I will repeat two quarts of oats and a few swallows of water in the morning before going out, three quarts at twelve, noon, and three quarts at six, P. M., with the usual allowance of hay is sufficient feeding for the first month.

INSTRUCTIONS TO OWNERS OF HORSES.

When you first commence to drive your colt, if on your own track, see how fast it can trot a mile at a nice, natural gait. Then in two weeks see whether it improves or not, and so on for a couple of months, and in that time you can tell whether it will pay to work it or not.

INSTRUCTIONS IN SHOEING.

If the colt don't knee up well, shoe it with a pound and a quarter shoe forward, and a pound shoe on the hind feet. If it bends a good knee, shoe according to its style of going. A pound shoe forward, and a three-quarter pound shoe behind, as the trainer must be the judge of shoeing. If the colt over-reaches, set the hind shoes pretty well back, and let the toe come out over the shoe. If the colt should hit its knee forward, shoe it heavier on the outside than on the inside. Shoe as straight as you can on the inside, having only two nails on the inside of the forward shoe. Shoe snug and close

on the inside of the forward feet. Should your horse's leaders swell or get sore from work, get strong brine and wet the leaders well with it, then wet your bandage well and bandage them, but not too tight, and let up working your horse for a while, and its legs will soon get all right again.

If your colt dwells on the track, and don't pick up its feet quick, get a set of rattlers and buckle them on each of its feet, and it will very soon change its motion. If a colt gets to hitching in its gait, putting the rattlers on gets it out of it. If your horse shies or dodges at every object it sees, drive it with an open bridle, so it can see all around it, and it will soon quit dodging.

IF YOUR HORSE IS FAT, AND YOU WANT TO REDUCE IT,

Give him a blanket sweat, by taking a blanket and pinning it around your horse's neck on both sides, and letting it go back as far as it will over its body; then throw another over this, and let it back still further; then put on a woolen hood and a belly wrapper; then put on your harness, and jog three miles; then let it step along at about three-quarter speed three miles more; then go to your stable and give your horse a few swallows of water; then take your harness off, and strip off all its clothes, and scrape off the sweat, as taking off the clothes keeps the horse from baking. Immediately after scraping off the sweat, throw some dry clothes over it and walk it around about five minutes, and bring it in; take its clothes off and scrape it again, if it is sweating freely; then take your rubbing cloth and rub it pretty nearly dry, and before taking it out again throw on it a cooling blanket and a hood, and walk it about ten minutes, then bring it in and rub it dry. Once a week is often enough to give a horse one of these sweats until you have got it in order.

IF ITS NECK IS BIG,

Put a hood on it and sweat its neck occasionally. Mash your horse with bran-mash after you scrape, when it is feeding time, as that will cool off its bowels. Prepare your mash as hereinbefore prescribed. As the trainer must be the best judge of his horse, it is needless for me to say more than to reassure the reader that if my instructions, as herein set forth, are closely studied and followed in practice the result cannot help but be gratifying, and a fast trotter produced as easily as can be by any professional trainer, and hundreds of dollars saved to the pockets of the horse owner.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR HORSE COMMAND A GOOD PRICE.

In order to make your horse command a good price or the price you ask for it when you bring it to a horse market to sell, first of all train your horse at home, and be sure and know exactly how fast it can trot a mile before you offer it for sale, and the least said about your horse's speed or good qualities until the proposed purchaser has examined it and tried its speed will operate in your favor, and materially aid you in ultimately getting your price for it. For instance, in bringing a green horse to market you are liable to meet a brigade of horse sharps that are very apt to make inquiries in regard to your stock, about their speed and so on, but their speed is what they most care to know, as speed commands the price. If your horse has shown you at home two minutes and fifty-seven or eight seconds, and you are asked what it is worth say it is worth one thousand dollars. Should you be asked what it is that makes it so valuable, let your reply be that he can trot. Should he ask you how fast, you can tell him three minutes. Should you be asked when you can name some day when you are sure to have him in fix for the exhibition, or on the same day, if you are certain that he is in order, he will certainly tell you if the horse can trot in three minutes, he will give you your price.

You go to the race track as agreed and your horse shows the proposed buyer that it can trot in two minutes and fifty-six or seven seconds, the purchaser makes up his mind at once that he is getting a horse from you that you know little or nothing about in point of speed, and he gladly buys at your own figures, thinking all the while that he can rapidly improve its speed, he being ignorant of the fact of its having been trained at home. On the contrary, should you tell that he could trot in two-minutes and fifty-seven seconds, and on trial did not accomplish it, he would at once surmise that it had been trained, and that its chances for improvement were bad, all of which would be against you in selling at high-speed figures. But, where your horse shows better time than you agreed it should, purchasers are the more eager to buy. If you have a horse for sale that can trot in two minutes and forty-five seconds, say to the proposed buyer that it can go in two minutes and fifty seconds, but be sure and ask the price of a two minute and forty-five second horse, which is two thousand dollars, and always in demand at that. Follow the above instructions and you are sure to realize all that your horses are worth.

A WORD TO BREEDERS OF TROTTING HORSES.

Breeders, to get trotting stock, must look to the mare as will as to the stallion. Such as intend to breed for trotters should understand that it is as necessary to have a good mare as well as a good horse. My advice in crossing mares to stallions is as follows: Take a good strong boned mare that weighs about twelve hundred pounds, that has a good, nice trotting gait; breed her to a thorough-bred horse, and it is as good a selection as the breeder can make. On the other hand, if you have well-bred and fine boned mares, cross those to trotting sires, and the breeder will be sure to make the right selections. It is better to breed a good mare to a tolerable good horse, than to breed a good horse to a scrub mare. What I mean by good mare, is one that has proved herself a good breeder. The sire, in like man-

ner, never breed without you know what you are breeding to. He must *be* a winner or the producer *of some*. You ought certainly, between them both, to get a valuable animal that, with proper care and attention, and a good trotting gait at the age of three years, would easily command from fifteen hundred to two thousand dollars and upwards. Pursue all the directions herein set forth, and you can not fail to produce good trotting horses, and that too without the aid of professional trainers.

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